

**Roger Brooke Taney to Andrew Jackson, April 28, 1843,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>CHIEF JUSTICE TANEY TO JACKSON.

Baltimore, April 28, 1843.

My Dear Sir, I received your kind letter last winter in relation to the history of your life which Mr. Kendall is engaged in preparing, and shall endeavor in the course of this summer to arrange such notes of the events which took place while I was a member of your Cabinet as I suppose may be useful to him. I was glad to see him look so well, and in much better health than when we were together in Washington. He told me he was then employed, and would be for some time, upon the earlier portion of your life, and should not reach the scenes at Washington before the fall, and that any information I might give, if furnished in the course of the Summer would be in time.

I read in the Globe a few days ago, with great pleasure a full account of the proceedings in the Legislature of Louisiana, concerning the fine imposed 0241 217 upon you by Judge Hall. This vindication of your conduct was certainly not necessary to your fame. But I was glad to see it for the sake of the state of Louisiana, and more especially for that of the City of New Orleans. For I have ever regarded the strong support there given to those who were calumniating and traducing you as a deep reproach to that state, and as the evidence that treason and disaffection was widely diffused in the City of New Orleans, and among influential classes of society at the time it was assaulted, and that it was prevented from shewing itself only by the vigor of your measures and the splendour of your victory. For whatever the corrupt influences of the Bank and paper money might accomplish in other places, by continually misrepresenting your conduct and motives, and enlisting the

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selfish against you, and deceiving many who did not personally know you, it has always seemed to me impossible that they could have raised up and kept alive so rancorous an opposition in a City which you had saved from a brutal soldiery; and a state from the horrors of a servile insurrection, unless there had been other influences to aid them. There was undoub[t]edly a high and noble spirit among a great many of the citizens of the Town and the State, and I look upon the late proceedings in the Legislature as proof that that spirit is gaining streng[th] and will soon pervade the whole of that community. Future ages will be amazed that such conduct as that of Judge Hall could find defenders or apologists in this count[r]y, and how there could be any difficulty in stigmatizing the disgraceful proceeding in the manner it deserves. Unfortunately the bitter feelings engendered by party conflicts too often render men blind to the principles of justice.

We have had a sad affliction since I last wrote to you in the death of F. S. Key. ¹ Mrs. Taney has suffered a great deal and I have sometimes feared it had seriously impaired her health. I hope however as the spring opens she will improve.

¹ Taney married Anne Phoebe Charlton Key, sister of Francis Scott Key.

We hope you continue to enjoy your usual health, and we all join in affectionate remembrance to you, and to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson and family, and I am Dear sir

Most respectfully and truly your friend